

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 01948 041715Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /021 W
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P 041508Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6833

S E C R E T KINSHASA 1948

EYES ONLY ASST SECRETARY EASUM FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ MASS, CG, US

SUBJECT: M-16'S FOR ZAIRE

1. PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE WASHINGTON FEB 15, I DISCUSSED STATUS OF MOBUTU'S REQUEST TO PURCHASE 1,000 M-16 RIFLES. I UNDERSTOOD PROSPECTS WERE GOOD GOZ REQUEST WOULD BE APPROVED. FROM ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US HERE, UNLESS US AGREES TO THIS SALE, GOZ WILL ACQUIRE AK-47S FROM CHINESE. BOTH FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW AND PORTUGAL'S IT WOULD SEEM INFINITELY PREFERABLE TO HAVE US FURNISH LIMITED NUMBER OF M-16S (WITH END USER SAFEGUARDS) THAN TO HAVE GOZ TURN TO CHINESE WITH ALL THAT THIS IMPLIES.

2. MOBUTU NOW SCHEDULED RETURN ZAIRE MARCH 6 AND I HOPE TO SEE HIM VERY SOON THEREAFTER. IT WOULD ASSIST GREATLY IN ALLAYING ANTICIPATED COMPLAINTS RE OUR INABILITY/REFUSAL TO SELL ZAIRE OTHER SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT IF I COULD INFORM MOBUTU AT THAT TIME THAT USG PBS APPROVED SALE OF M-16S. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND SUCH ACTION.

3. PLEASE ADVISE.

VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KINSHA01948
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740371/aaaacnsv.tel
Line Count: 49
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: M-16'S FOR ZAIRE
TAGS: MASS, CG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005